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Sen. Kuipers to introduce own graduation requirement legislation after finishing statewide hearings

LANSING — Sen. Wayne Kuipers said today he will propose bipartisan legislation that would make Michigan a national leader in having rigorous high school graduation requirements.

Kuipers, R-Holland, logged almost 3,000 miles in travel to nine hearings across the state along with members of the Senate Education Committee and local lawmakers. At the hearings, lawmakers listened to more than 24 hours of testimony from 229 people.

“My proposal is the culmination of the public feedback we’ve heard,” said Kuipers, who chairs the Senate Education Committee. “I’ve listened to all the concerns expressed and have incorporated them into my bill. This is a good proposal and I want to make it better.”

The Senate Education Committee will discuss the proposed graduation requirements at its next hearing, scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday, in room 210 of the Farnum Building, 125 W. Allegan St., Lansing.

The Senate is considering a proposal from the state superintendent and State Board of Education that would implement graduation requirements beyond the half year of civics class now required. The plan would require students to take certain courses and a certain number of years, or equivalent credit, in various subjects. The House of Representatives has passed a different version of the board’s proposal.

Michigan is among a handful of states with minimal statewide graduation requirements. In Michigan, graduation requirements are left to local school boards.

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